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Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY CHORAL SOCIETY.—Their Concert on the 6th of April consisted of *Romberg's* "Lay of the Bell," and a Miscellaneous Selection. The Concert gave great satisfaction to the assembled friends of the Members of the College, who, with the Chapel Choir, are the performers.

THE PHILHARMONIC CONCERT.—The programme for the Second Concert which took place in Passion-week, was in accordance with the season, and consisted of a selection from *Mendelssohn's* "St. Paul," and *Beethoven's* fine "Mass in C;" and the "Choral Symphony" of *Beethoven*, in the second part. The careful selection of the Chorus Singers, the excellence of the Orchestra, and the skill of the Conductor, Sig. Costa, produced a most satisfactory result. * *

The *Atlas* says of this Concert—We appreciate the boldness of the attempt to give an evening of entire new music, and to introduce, through the medium of polished artists, compositions like those of *Spohr*, *Mendelssohn*, and *Beethoven*, which have hitherto only been heard after the mixed and uncertain manner of Exeter-hall—for which hearing, nevertheless, we desire to be proportionably thankful. The amateur contribution to the progress of music during a course of near ten years at Exeter-hall has been considerable; the Philharmonic carries us still forward, and shows that the great effects of choral music do not depend on the number of singers, but upon correctness, expression, and unity. In this way the artists of London erect a new standard of excellence. * * * *

The chorus sang charmingly in the lovely movement from *St. Paul*, "Oh! happy and blest!" and also in the *Qui tollis* and *Benedictus* of *Beethoven's* mass; and it is certainly one of the most pleasing things in all music to hear several voices singing in unison with entire sympathy in the feeling and sentiment of the phrase. The mass in C is a feast for the musician as well as for the unlearned; it contains nothing troublesome to understand—nothing to perplex the imagination. A vein of natural thought prevails throughout: and while there are an abundance of passages to distinguish the individuality of *Beethoven*, his eccentricity is entirely absent. The voices are more considerably written for than is usual with him in that department—and the score is gorgeous. The total conception of the work was exceedingly satisfactory, and the opportunity one to be grateful for.

CHORAL HARMONISTS.—At the fifth meeting, the Concert commenced, as usual, with a Mass—the second of *Haydn*: the programme also contained a selection from *Mendelssohn's* *St. Paul*, and *Romberg's* *Lay of the Bell*.

THE TWO ITALIAN OPERA HOUSES.—The present season will be remarkable for the experiment of a second Italian Opera House, which has been opened under favorable auspices at Covent Garden. In the rivalry between the old and new companies the public is as yet a large gainer. The London Italian Opera has deservedly held a high rank, as the concentrating point for the best talent, Vocal and Orchestral, to be found in Europe; but it has been the custom to reserve the best Singers until after Easter. This season, however, the old house in the Haymarket began with a company complete in every department, and it has seldom been our good fortune to hear Operas better performed. Since Covent Garden has been opened, the same energy has been displayed in the production of Operas which has been shewn in all their arrangements, from the rebuilding of the Theatre, to the engagement of the best artists in every department. If we may venture to predict, we would say, that it is probable that sufficient public support will be secured to each, by the excellence induced through the competition of these rival Operas.

EDINBURGH.—The pupils of a society which has now been established about three years, called *The Association for the revival of Sacred Music*, have lately undergone a very gratifying public examination. About 900 Children formed the Classes, of whom 200 may be considered of the upper or more advanced. Dr. Mainzer was much complimented on the result of his labours by the Noble and Learned Members of the Association.

THE HISTORICAL CONCERTS.—The fourth and concluding Concert of this, the second series, took place in the large room Exeter Hall, and was a most gratifying evidence of the progress which Class teaching will produce. The Glees and Chorusses were sung with a precision, delicacy, and union, which has never been hitherto produced by a large number of voices. The profits of these Concerts are intended to swell the Hullah Testimonial Fund, in aid of the erection of a Music Hall, and we sincerely hope that the pecuniary results are such as to induce a continuance of these pleasant Concerts.

THE ANCIENT CONCERTS.—The first and second Concerts of this season have been quite barren in Choral novelty; but we have better hope of the third, which is under the direction of Prince Albert, who generally selects an interesting programme.

MANCHESTER MADRIGAL SOCIETY.—The Annual Assembly of this Society was held in the Town Hall, on the 15th of April. An excellent selection of Madrigals and other Vocal Part Music was well sung by the members, under the direction of their indefatigable Conductor, Mr. William Shore.

THE GUILDFORD CHORAL SOCIETY had an interesting Meeting on the 15th of April, when a Selection from *Mendelssohn's* "St. Paul," and *Haydn's* "Creation," was well performed.

THE "ELIJAH" OF MENDELSSOHN.—This great work has been produced in London under the direction of its Author, and has created an excitement which is highly creditable to the musical feeling in London. We are indebted to the Sacred Harmonic Society, at whose invitation *Mendelssohn* visited London.—He has been a member of their Society since the time of their first performance of his *St. Paul*, in 1837, on which occasion the Society used the large room, instead of the small one, an important step in the history of their gradual rise and success. From this time may be dated the firmer hold which the Society has held on public favor, and it was on a repetition of *St. Paul* in 1844, when conducted by the Author, that HER MAJESTY first honored the Society by her presence. This honor was graciously repeated at the performance of *Elijah* on the 23rd. It would be impossible in our confined space to give even a short analysis of a work which is replete with the highest resources of the musical art. The work will, we hope, be shortly published, although no time is yet announced. The *Elijah* has been given by the Manchester Hargreave's Society; it is to be done in Birmingham; and is announced for the 28th and 30th of April, in London.

THE MANCHESTER HARMONIC SOCIETY gave a successful performance of "*Haydn's* Seasons," in the Free Trade Hall. The audience were said to number 2000 persons.

THE LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY have lately performed the major portion of *Mendelssohn's* Oratorio, *St. Paul*, to a large and delighted audience. It may be recollected that this fine work was first produced in England at the Liverpool Festival, in 1836.

MESSRS. DISTIN'S CONCERT AT MANCHESTER.—The *Guardian* of that town speaking of this gifted family, says—Curschmann's lovely trio, *Ti prego O madre pia*, we never heard sung with such a ravishing sweetness of musical blending as it was on this occasion, arranged as a quintet.